

Serial No.: 08/944,850
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In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-17 and 24-27, without prejudice or disclaimer, as drawn to a non-elected invention.

B¹
28. (Amended) A method for [reducing] increasing the signal-to-noise ratio in the characteristic optical response signature of a sensor array having subpopulations of different sensor elements comprising:

- a) measuring the optical response signature of at least two of said sensor elements of at least one of said subpopulations; and
- b) summing the optical response signatures.

B²
37. (Amended) A method for amplifying the characteristic optical response signature of a sensor array having subpopulations of different sensor elements comprising:

- a) measuring the optical response signature of at least two of said sensor elements of at least one of said subpopulations; and
- b) summing the optical response signatures.

REMARKS

Claims 28-38 are pending. Claim 28 has been amended to recite a method of increasing the signal-to-noise ratio. Support for the amendment can be found at p. 13, line 8 and at p. 46, lines 11-14. Claims 28 and 37 have been amended to recite different sensor elements. Support can be found throughout the specification, for example at p. 14, line 11. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendment. For the Examiner's convenience, an Appendix with the currently pending claims is attached hereto.

Election/Restriction

Applicants confirm the election without traverse of Group II, claims 18-23 (currently